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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TEXTS OF DHS EMERGENCY AVIATION AMENDMENTS
DELIVERED TO YEMEN'S CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

REF: 03 STATE 348468

11. (sbu) Pol/Econ Chief and Econoff delivered texts of three aviation emergency amendments provided in reftel to Hamed Ahmed Farag, Chairman of Yemen's Civil Aviation and Meteorological Authority (CAMA), Mohammed al-Madhagi, CAMA Advisor and Chief of the Technical Advisory Bureau. Noting that Yemen does not currently have an air marshal program, Pol/Econ Chief asked if Yemen would be able to provide "armed, trained, government law enforcement officers" if warranted by circumstances or required by TSA. Officials did not provide a clear answer, but al-Madhagi noted that Yemen had a sky marshal program more than ten years ago that was discontinued because of safety concerns, i.e., a passenger could take a marshal's weapon and use it to hijack the plane. He asked if the additional security requirements were an ICAO or U.S. standard. Upon learning it was a U.S. Department of Homeland Security requirement, he opined the world will not accept the requirement because of the perceived danger of armed officers on flights.

12. (sbu) Comment: There are currently no direct flights from Yemen, by domestic or international carriers, to, from or over the United States, which greatly reduces the likelihood that the emergency amendments would ever need to be enforced with CAMA's cooperation. CAMA officials received the information, but seemed skeptical about the law's effectiveness. End comment.
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